

FARMING AS A BUSINESS

England and the United States:
For Massachusetts Ploughman:
 Farming as a business, whether in England or the United States, is done for profit. It is on the investment of capital, skill and labor, the same that is true of capitalistic enterprise in other business, manufacturing, mercantile, etc. If capital invested in farming of business return only enough to cover interest accruing thereon annually, and taxes, then no one can afford to continue. The use of capital in such an investment is not the same will be true whether the capital is invested in farming, manufacturing, mercantile, etc. The facilities for transportation, communication such both by land and water, and the use of machinery are now brought into immediate consideration with each other. The same is true of the people of nations. The same produce goods at the lowest cost, where the farm manufactured will have the same cost.

age in the markets of the world. The business in England has been suffering in hard times, as in the United States. No kind of business has suffered more than that in Britain, perhaps, than that of agriculture, while in the United States none has suffered less. The seasons have been unpropitious for farm crops in England from 1875 to 1879 inclusive, the last season, that of 1879, having been the most so of all. This is reported by a writer in *Scientific American's* Magazine, that "from January 1st to the first of August, there were but four rainy days—more inches of rain had fallen in the meanwhile than was ever recorded for the same length of time." During these years from 1874, there have been but three or four crops of corn, wheat and other cereal crops and for 1879, the lightest of all. And yet notwithstanding this, the crop, estimated at 100,000,000 bushels of wheat, in the Liverpool and London

changes were quoted at £2 9s. a quarter (eight bushels) about the same as the former years when the harvests were better. This, say the English grain dealers, is the case with the most intelligent farmers, is owing to the competition with the United States, the farmers of the latter country having secured their surplus wheat which can be marketed at a less cost per bushel in the ports of Great Britain, than it costs to have a bushel of wheat in England in former seasons for growing the cereal crops. It was ordinarily the case in former years that England had the shortage of a comparatively small quantity of wheat to make up in a measure to farmers by importances. It seems from the foregoing account that it does not seem now, owing not only to the great facilities for international transportation, but also in part to lower cost of production.

According to careful computation by

English agricultural authorities, who say that wheat in England cannot grow under the most favorable conditions with any profit for less than \$1.50 a bushel; the margin of profit at this price being reported as 10 per cent. The farmer of the United States can sell the Liverpool and London markets good sound wheat for \$1.12 a bushel at a handsome profit to both producer and exporter. Beef in England costs 10 cents a pound, while the United States produces at a profit for less than six cents a pound, it is stated. The United States can send beef to England and make a profit of twelve cents a pound, with a liberal margin to producer and shipper. So of other products. The cheese makers of the United States have, by supplying the English market with cheese, compelled English dairymen to sell by scores and hundreds to obtain a cheese-making and engage in the milk business. At the late London Dairy Show

Sheiden reports that "there were a number of samples of American cheese, clean in flavor and rich in quality, mellow in texture and with a pleasant tang." The judges declared this to be decidedly the best in the show and the best of the American cheese. The exhibitor, of New York, carried off the prize in his class." Such is the competition between the dairymen of the United States and the English dairymen have to meet in the United States.

The exportation of breadstuffs, meats and dairy products from the United States to England has greatly depressed farming in Great Britain, and must continue to do so as long as these several products can be raised cheaper in the United States than they can in the United Kingdom. The rental of tenants on farming lands in Great Britain must be greatly lowered before the competition from the United States can be as low as it is in the United States, as shown above.

The following statement by Mr. Cairnes, of the Scotch Agricultural Society, of Glasgow, is a good illustration of the effect of the

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In consequence of the depressed state of agriculture in Great Britain the farmers are unwillingly keeping their courage by the return of prosperity. In some districts there have been reduced from 10 to 30 per cent; others who have not reduced at all have extended the time for payment of the troubles incident to the present state of English farmers is the great uncertainty of the permanency of their buildings. The farmer dislikes after having worked thirty years, more or less, making improvements and improvements, to lose the advantages accruing from his labors and investments. Yet unpleasant and undesirable this may be and is, unless rents be reduced, such holdings will be, eye, abandoned, and these farm tenants are to the United States as some have already done.

Nearly twenty years ago Horace G. ...
predicted that the time is near when fa ...
the United States will ship wheat to ...
English markets and sell it at lower: fl

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